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were changed, convictions would more readily follow, and the prevention of crimes would be effectuated by substituting certainty to severity, in the mode of punishment. The law is too severe for the present temper of the times, the progress of knowledge has meliorated the minds of men, and induced them to apportion more accurately the punishment to the crime. The law should keep pace with this improvement, and Sir Samuel Romilly deserves great praise for his exertions to lessen the number of capital punishments. Our system of jurisprudence is so sanguinary as to defeat the avowed purpose of severity. It is only sanguinary in the letter, and is extremely lax in the execution. Of two evils humanity prefers to let the guilty escape, although offences are thus multiplied, and offenders by their frequent escapes are rendered more incorrigible, rather than punish with a severity altogether disproportioned to the offence. The twelve tables of the Roman law, were like the statutes of Draco, written in the characters of blood. Among other cruel enactments, insolvent debtors were punished with the greatest severity, but the attempt was ineffectual to prevent running in debt. The judicious remarks of Gibbon, on the useless severities inflicted by this law, are applicable to the present times.

"The advocates for this savage law, have insisted, that it must strongly operate in deterring idleness and fraud, from contracting debts which they were unable to discharge; but experience would dissipate this salutary terror by proving that no creditor could be found to exact this unprofitable penalty of life or limb. As the manners of Rome were insensibly polished the criminal code of the decemvirs was abolished, by the humanity of accusers, witnesses and judges; and impunity became the consequence of immoderate rigour."

At page 316, among the public occurrences, will be found a correspondence with Sir Samuel Romilly, on the subject of capital punishments.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

The following resolutions, with an address to Sir Francis Burdett, and a petition and remonstrance to the House of

Commons were agreed on at a meeting held the 17th inst.

Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff in the chair.

Resolved, That we most highly approve of Sir Francis Burdett's letter to us his constituents, the subject being of the utmost importance, and the argument incontrovertible.

That Sir Francis Burdett's conduct in calling upon the civil power for the protection of his house against a military force, was dictated by prudence, knowledge of, and confidence in the laws of his country.

That the house of commons be called upon to restore to us our beloved representative, and to co-operate immediately with him in his endeavours to procure a fair representation of the people in parliament.

That the petition now read, be adopted, that it be signed by the high bailiff and twenty-five electors, and delivered to our remaining representative the right honourable lord Cochrane, to be by him presented to the house of commons.

That a letter be addressed to Sir Francis Burdett, expressing our full and entire approbation of the whole and every part of his conduct as a member of parliament.

That the letter now read, be adopted; that it be signed by electors in the name of this meeting, and that the high bailiff be requested to present the same to Sir Francis Burdett.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to our worthy representative the right honourable lord Cochrane, for his support of Sir Francis Burdett, during the present arduous struggle.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to those independent members of the house of commons, who have supported the rights of the people.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff for his ready compliance with the requisition of the electors, and for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

To the honourable the Commons of the United kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in parliament assembled.

The petition and remonstrance of the inhabitant householders, electors of the city and liberties of Westminster, assembled in New Palace yard, the 17th day of April, 1810, by the appointment of Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff, in pursuance of a requisition for that purpose.

We, the inhabitants householders, electors of the city and liberties of Westminster, feel most sensibly the indignity offered to this city, in the person of our beloved representative whose letter to us has fallen under the censure of your ho-